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Excellent plans are provided of the battles of Schellenberg, Blenheim, Ramillies, Oudenarde, 1 to 6 p.m., and also at 7 p.m., and Malplaquet, on a scale of 1:40,000, with contours at intervals of five metres. The general index and a special index of place-names are satisfactory and the make-up of the book is praiseworthy.

E. A. CRUIKSHANK.

Zur Preussischen und Deutschen Geschichte. Aufsätze und Vorträge
von REINHOLD KOSER. (Stuttgart and Berlin: J. G. Cotta'sche
Buchhandlung Nachfolger. 1921. Pp. iii, 432. M. 25; bound,
M. 36.)

REINHOLD KOSER, the author of this volume of essays, died in August, 1914. He will be remembered for three things. He was head of the Prussian archives, where his wise and liberal administration was a real service to scholarship. He was for some years the choice of the academies of Berlin, Munich, and Vienna to direct work on the *Monumenta Germaniae Historica*. But he will be longest remembered as the author of the standard life of Frederick the Great, and of a political history of Prussia which, by reason of his death, was carried only through the first volume to 1648.

Koser belonged to the Ranke-Sybel school of political historians and represented its best traditions. His work is always substantial and, as might be expected, is usually based on wide study of archival material. He was at his best when he had the elbow-room of solid volumes in which to present his results. His mind and his style do not show at their best in essays. He was not a brilliant generalizer, lacked dialectic skill, and could not point his thoughts with a telling phrase. When he wrote an essay or delivered an address, it was of a kind that you might expect to find cited in Dahlmann-Waitz.

Of the thirteen essays, the first nine are arranged chronologically according to the period or persons treated. They range from a general survey of the Great Elector, the least valuable in the volume, to a study of Frederick William IV. on the eve of the March revolution of 1848. Like Mr. Dick in *David Copperfield*, who could not keep King Charles's head out of his memoir, Koser returns again and again to the subject of his life-work, Frederick the Great. What preceding ages or rulers contributed to him or his work, or later ones derived from it by imitation or contrast, is called constantly to the reader's attention. The second essay compares the naval and maritime policies of the Great Elector and of Frederick, the third treats the first queen, Sophie Charlotte, and although her vendetta against Danckelmann, the all-powerful minister, is the chief theme, her relations to Frederick William, the father of Frederick, are not forgotten. The founding of the foreign office in 1728 with the excellent summary of Ilgen's memoir helps to explain the situation perpetuated under Frederick and his suc-

cessors to 1806. The general survey of Frederick's reign lacks those high lights that Delbrück or Meinecke or Marcks throw on any period that they know as well as Koser knew the age of Frederick. The essay on Frederick and the Prussian universities admits, of course, that Frederick was more interested in the Berlin Academy than in higher education. Koser has, nevertheless, made his treatment a history of the Prussian universities in the eighteenth century. How familiar it all sounds! The student body lacks interest in scholarship and needs discipline. The professors are dry and pedantic. Salaries and recruiting from neighboring universities at higher than the regular stipend are burning questions. Professors called from Göttingen to Halle use the negotiations to get an increased salary at Göttingen. And the study of Greek is declining! The longest essay is a survey, based on published material, of Prussian policy from 1786 to 1806. This is a very useful synthesis for those who do not command the mass of special studies on this period. The review of Cavaignac under the title of Prussian Reform Legislation in relation to the French Revolution is a just critique of that author, but in suggesting the continuity of the Prussian reform era with the past, it misses the finer things in the spirit of the two ages. The excellent essay on Frederick William in 1848 is still valuable because of its use of archival material, but is weak as a character-study. The essay on the epochs in the development of the absolute monarchy is a fine example of what history can contribute to political theory and demolishes Roscher's oft-repeated formula. The essay on the beginning of political parties in Prussia before 1849 seems sketchy when compared with the solid work done in this field. The concluding essays on the Rhine provinces and Prussia, and on Louis XIV. (a review of Lavisse), keep to their theme with but little of that nationalism evident in other Prussian historians who have dealt with similar topics. But that little, with its possible bearing on present-day problems, may explain their position at the close of the volume.

The volume fortifies rather than makes a reputation. It is a convenience to have scattered essays brought into easily available form and on paper that is up to pre-war quality.

G. S. FORD.

Histoire de France Contemporaine depuis la Révolution jusqu'à la Paix de 1919. Publiée sous la direction de ERNEST LAVISSE. Tome I., *La Révolution, 1789-1792.* Par P. SAGNAC. Tome II., *La Révolution, 1792-1799.* Par G. PARISSET. (Paris: Hachette et Cie. 1920. Pp. 440; 439.)

THE decision of M. Lavisse to add to his monumental *Histoire de France* this *Histoire de la France Contemporaine* has brought satisfaction to all lovers of French history. The studies of the last half cen-